

Applicant : Alexander Hilscher et al
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (New) A toothbrush, comprising:
a brushhead portion having a bristle section in the vicinity of one end thereof;
a handle portion, with a driver assembly therein for driving the bristle section, wherein the brushhead portion and the handle portion are adapted such that the brushhead portion is removable from the handle portion;
communication means for data communication between the brushhead portion and the handle portion when the brushhead portion and handle portion are joined together;
a memory element in the brushhead portion for storing at least data which identifies the brushhead portion; and
a microcontroller in the handle portion, wherein the memory element in the brushhead portion provides information therein to the microcontroller via the communication means.
43. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller in operation accumulates information concerning use of the brushhead, and wherein the apparatus includes means for reading information in the memory element in the brushhead to the microcontroller.
44. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein said information indicates properties of the brushhead.
45. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein said information indicates operating parameters of the toothbrush for the brushhead.

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46. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the information is used to monitor use of the toothbrush.
47. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the toothbrush will not operate unless the information from the memory element is valid, as determined by the microcontroller.
48. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, including means for displaying selected information related to the brushhead.
49. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, further including a device for providing operating information to define particular operations of the brushhead.
50. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the communication means comprise wireless components.
51. (New) A toothbrush of claim 48, wherein the wireless components include coils on the brushhead and the handle for inductive communication.
52. (New) A toothbrush of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller includes means for evaluating the time of past uses of the brushhead.
53. (New) A brushhead portion of a toothbrush, the toothbrush including a handle portion to which the brushhead portion can be joined comprising:
a brushhead assembly which includes a bristle section, the brushhead assembly adapted to be removable from the handle portion of the toothbrush;
communication means for data communication between the brushhead assembly and a separate device; and

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a memory element in the brushhead assembly for storing data identifying the brushhead assembly.

54. (New) A brushhead of claim 53, wherein said separate device is the handle portion of the toothbrush.

55. (New) A brushhead of claim 53, wherein the communication means includes means for data communication with the handle portion when the brushhead assembly and the handle are joined together.

56. (New) A brushhead of claim 52, wherein said data indicates operating parameters of the toothbrush for the brushhead.

57. (New) A brushhead of claim 52, wherein the communication means includes electrically conductive elements.

58. (New) A brushhead of claim 53, wherein the communication means comprises wireless components.

59. (New) A brushhead of claim 56, wherein the wireless components include coils for inductive communication.